



Grammar and Middle School students arrive for their first day of school Wednesday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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THE NEW COVENANT EXPERIENCE

by John Heaton, Headmaster

This year marks the 33rd year since the founding of New Covenant Schools. For many however, this is the first year of association with the school. For others in our community—21 families of seniors to be exact—it marks the thirteenth year! Wherever you fall in the history of our school, our story is now your story. Our highest hope is that you find New Covenant to be a significant and strong partner as you seek to raise and educate your children. Here are a few things you should expect in the coming year.

First, I constantly emphasize to our faculty that the New Covenant experience should be level.

Here's what I mean. Regardless of the grade in which your child is enrolled, you should expect that from year to year, he or she will thrive in a classroom where predictability and support are normative. We work hard to create a classroom experience that feels the same over time. Kindergarten, to be sure, has a particular feel as little children adjust to the rhythms of day school. When they move through the Grammar School, however, the demands they encounter will change, but the expectations, routines and habits will remain the same. In other words, to use a phrase I put to the faculty, we strive for a

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WHAT'S NEW?

Outdoor Gym Nears Completion

Perhaps you've noticed the construction on our back campus in the lower part we call the Dell. During the summer the Permanent Things Campaign provided funding for the outdoor gym project that is nearing completion. While we had hoped to be ready on day one, the steady rain pattern put our contractors behind. Nevertheless, the upgrades will soon be complete and will feature an outdoor gym with exercise stations for more than 30 athletes, a tennis wall, a basketball hoop, shotput and discus throwing areas, and covered seating on our Greek steps. Dedication ceremonies for this space will take place on September 8 during the Back-to-School Picnic as the project will be nearly complete by that time.



H O N O R A R I A



CLASS OF 2024 | CONVOCATION



New Covenant recently marked the official beginning of the new school term by welcoming the class of 2024 at our annual convocation. We look forward to a year full of learning, fun, and memories with these 29 students. The service also offered time to introduce new teachers to our community and to hear from our school chaplain, Rev. Davidson Morse.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED	
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i>	\$60,100
		<i>Received</i>	\$27,323

The New Covenant Schools Scholarship Foundation exists to provide scholarships for students who would not be able to attend our school without significant help. Individuals who donate to this fund receive a 65% tax credit to be used against state tax liabilities and may use the remaining 35% as a deduction on federal taxes if itemization occurs. This is a way to steward your tax money and use it for a child's education. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

LABOR DAY

There will be no school **Monday, September 4.**

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

If you are available during the school day and wish to be on call as a substitute teacher, you may apply for the position and be added to our list of subs. If interested, go to the "Join Our Team" page on the school website and submit a faculty application online, omitting the essays.

MOMS IN PRAYER

Please join us **starting this Wednesday from 2:00-3:00pm** in the chapel for a time of prayer for our students, teachers, staff, and community.

AFTERCARE

This quarter's aftercare program is full and will not be accepting daily add-ins.

STUDENT ABSENCES/PICK-UP

If your child will be absent, please send an email by 9am to ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org indicating the reason for their absence. If you need to pick up a student early for an appointment, email the time you need your student in the lobby. A parent or guardian must sign out all non-driving students, and if they are returning to school, they must be signed back in. Parents who wish for their child to drive themselves to a medical or dental appointment during instructional time (a scheduled class period), regardless of grade, must provide written permission for each occasion. Driving students are required to sign in and out at the lobby desk.

GRYPHON OUTFITTERS

The school store is open each Thursday school is in session from 2:30-3:30pm. For any questions, please contact **Lara Haupricht** at Gryphonstore@newcovenantschools.org

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Back-to-School Fellowship Picnic will be held **Friday, September 8.** Plan to bring your family and join us for a good time together! More details to come.

RIDE SHARING

Be sure to update Facts Family Portal regarding who can pick up your child. If someone comes to pick up your child and you have not given them permission in Facts Family Portal, we will be calling you to confirm the dismissal. To indicate who can pick up your child, log into Facts Family Portal, and go to: School > Web Forms > Family Demographic Form Transportation > Transportation Form. Enter those individuals who are allowed to transport your child. Click save when finished.

PARENTS WELCOME

We are grateful for the opportunity to welcome parents on campus. When you are planning your visit, please remember the following protocols required of our visitors:

1. All visitors must use the main entrance and sign in. Please do not leave the lobby area without receiving authorization from front desk personnel (not even to peek in the kindergarten wing or front office)!
2. Your visit should be purposeful and planned, with every attempt not to disrupt class. You are welcome to visit during your student's lunchtime;

lunchtime is the appropriate time for visiting with students. If you wish to visit the classroom or have a conference with your child's teacher, please contact the office to schedule.

CUSTODIAN NEEDED

Do you know anyone looking for a part-time evening job with flexible hours? **Darren Johnson** is seeking two individuals to help in our facilities department with cleaning in Workman Field House and our bathrooms. Pay begins at \$14 an hour for about 10-15 hours a week. This is perfectly suited for a college student, retired individual, or anyone looking for a little extra money. Contact Darren at djohnson@newcovenantschools.org for more information.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

SAT: ATTENTION SENIORS

The SAT will be proctored for all interested seniors on **Thursday, October 26**, during the school day. Seniors do not need to register online in order to take this test. Information regarding payment and other details will be sent to parents and students today via email.



SOR's House Wittenburg and House Canterbury face off in Ultimate Frisbee at the SOR Games at Peaks View Park on Friday.

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as the Grammar School Principal. **Kathryn Martin** begins her 26th year in the School of Dialectic, and **Scott McCurley** enters his 20th year in the School of Rhetoric. In a transient world where institutions experience vast turnover, we bring over a century of experience to bear on the daily experience of your child.

Wherever you find yourself in the long process of raising children, you have a deep resource in the community that is New Covenant Schools. We are

committed to your child's success and to the health and well-being of your family. Our highest hope is that our school is a blessing to you as we begin the journey of a new year together.

“monolithic front.” That’s a clunky way to put it, but what I mean is this: regardless of the particular teacher, the feel of the classroom remains constant from grade to grade. Our faculty members work from a unified curriculum through which a student progresses, and the classroom culture remains steady regardless of who the teacher is.

Sometimes parents, having heard about “Mrs. Smith” who is well-known to be a great teacher, wish to put in seating requests for her class. Naturally, they want all of their children to have her. We understand that, and we’re proud of Mrs. Smith, but at New Covenant we disallow “teacher choosing.” The reason is that each of our faculty members are chosen for their education, their skill, and their knowledge of children. My personal test is that every teacher on our faculty is an individual to whose tutelage I would commit my own children, a practice I followed as long as my daughters and sons were enrolled. My confidence in every one of them is personal as well as professional.

Second, our teachers come from a variety of backgrounds. While each is credentialed in their fields, nevertheless, it is true that each possesses a variety of gifts which they bring to bear on a daily basis. The difference in the student experience does not lie in a faculty member’s autonomy. All of them work within a framework of predictability that has been honed by the school’s leadership for more than three decades. Differences, where they occur, lie in the specific gifts they bring to bear. Thus, when students struggle, as most do from time to time, this is rarely attributable to a personality conflict with the teacher. Rather, the New Covenant classroom is a place where loving supportiveness is the norm, and where every student can thrive and reach his or her potential.

Finally, New Covenant is blessed with durable leadership in the Grammar, Dialectic, and Rhetoric schools that reaches nearly all the way back to our founding. I and my colleagues bring an unparalleled depth to our efforts. **Marion Patterson** begins her 27th year

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OUR MISSION

New Covenant Schools is an educational community serving families of Central Virginia, providing an exceptional education in a classical curriculum within the framework of historic Christianity, furnishing the student with the tools of education and the inspiration to be a lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS